

Charles Stephens

7

Georgia State University
Atlanta, Georgia

Pursuing a bachelor's degree in Women's Studies, with a concentration in Lesbian and Gay Studies

Member of the Board of Directors for the National Youth Advocacy Coalition o
Co-Coordinator for the Black Rainbow, a discussion and support group for
young black queer men o Speaker at the Black Gay Pride rally o GSU Student Judicial
Board/Public Relations Committee Chair o GSU Student Government
Association Constitution Committee.

"In the tradition of James Baldwin, I bear witness. We live in a world that has a vision of itself that is not consistent with the reality. I live in a world which tries to erase me because I am black, because I am gay, because I am a youth, because I am working class, and I could go on. I bear witness to this erasure.

Bearing witness is being an observer. As I travel through this planet I take note. My willingness to speak the truths I observe is the process of bearing witness."

Maya M. Rodgers

Mercer University

Atlanta Campus

Pursuing a bachelor's degree in Organizational Leadership

4

Mentor to young lesbians o Annual volunteer for AIDS Walk Atlanta o Member of ZAMI o YouthPride volunteer o Works full-time, is a parent and grandparent, still maintains a 4.0 grade average at Mercer University o Dean's List o President's List.

"My sexual orientation continues to have a significant impact on my life. There are simply experiences I would not have, were I not in the life. I have had the privilege of meeting people that have overcome tremendous challenges and obstacles due to their sexual orientation. These people encourage me to challenge the system and pursue justice for all."

Nicole L. Pitts

Georgia Perimeter College

Clarkston Campus

Pursuing a bachelor's degree in Liberal Arts

Active volunteer with YouthPride, currently serving as secretary of the board, diversity committee chair, and Pride activities coordinator o Volunteer with

Enlight Atlanta, The Human Rights Campaign, The National Gay and Lesbian Task Force, The National Youth Advocacy Coalition and others.

"I have not only affirmed my sexual identity but I have shouted it from the rooftops. I have lost family, friends and part of who I was to affirm my sexual identity. I have lived within the community, helped it and nurtured it... I have lived so that people know that sexuality and gender are fluid and need to be discussed and lived."

(6)

DON GEORGE SCHOLARS



Alexander Garrard

The University of Georgia

Athens, Georgia

Pursuing a bachelor's degree in the Pre-Pharmacy Program

As a junior, challenged the administration of Parkview High School to found Equality Through Change: Parkview's Gay/Straight Alliance o Awarded the Civil Libertarian Award by the ACLU o Beta Club o Mu Alpha Theta o German Honors Society o Parkview Animal Welfare Society o Philosophy Club o Volunteer with Civil Air Patrol.

"The most prominent consequence my sexual orientation has had on me is making

me proud of who I am. After coming out and struggling through middle school, after being threatened and verbally abused, I have come out on top...By being openly gay and honest, I have shown many students what a gay person looks like, and many of them have become more open-minded and accepting of different people because of that."

Scholarship Program

how my life would otherwise be if I had never come out. I'm sure that it would be no less rewarding, but I'm so grateful for what I got."

Kelly Marie Pattillo

Georgia State University

Atlanta, Georgia

Pursuing a bachelor's degree in Anthropology

Co-founded and coordinated OutYouth in 1991, an activist and support organization for young people o Member of the Atlanta Asian Pacific Lesbian Bisexual

Transgender Network (APLBTN), which serves as a social network for Asian and Pacific Islander queer women and transfolk o Speaker at Atlanta Pride

festival o Speaker and steering committee member for Lifeline: Asian/Pacific HIV Outreach Program o Volunteer coordinator for Project Open Hand o

Volunteer manager and facilitator for YouthPride o Associate Director for YouthPride, overseeing programs and volunteers.

"I am a young woman who came out as a teenager, who strives to come out to as many people as it takes to make homophobia a thing of the past. I have taken queerness in stride and tried to use it to an advantage. I am an intelligent, enthusiastic and involved member of Atlanta's LGBT community... I cannot imagine

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